Promotion of environment friendly products in Railways

†2181. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to promote environment friendly products such as Kulhar and Khadi in Railways to promote cottage industries;

(b) if so, the details of remarkable activities done in this regard;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce handmade paper stationery in the Railways; if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to promote such an employment oriented policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided to introduce the use of Kulhar and Khadi w.e.f. 25.05.2004 and 09.06.2004 respectively over all Indian Railways. All licensees of catering units have been instructed to use Kulhars for serving tea, *lassi* etc. and to eliminate the use of plastic cups. Departmental units of Indian Railways and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited are also procuring Kulhars through tribal cooperative, Khadi Village Industry and Commission (KVIC), open market, potters etc. and using on Railways. Introduction of Kulhars and Khadi/handloom products have provided job avenues for artisans and weaker sections of society as a whole. This has given additional source of earning and livelihood in the rural sector and boost to cottage industries.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Quazigund-Baramulla rail project

2182. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry intends to complete the railway track between Quazigund and Baramulla on priority basis; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.